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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/633,059	08/01/2003	Sherry L. Krell	200208910-I	3605
22879	7590	01/30/2007	EXAMINER	
HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400			NALVEN, ANDREW L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2134	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	01/30/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/633,059	KRELL ET AL.
	Examiner Andrew L. Nalven	Art Unit 2134

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 August 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

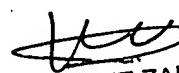
Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 01 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 - 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.



KAMBIZ ZAND
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-19 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
3. With regards to claims 1, 11, 14, 17 and all their dependents therefrom, the cited claims are directed to a method for seeding a random number generator; however, it is unclear if the claimed "resulting seed" of step "f" is the seed that will be used to seed the random number generator as is described in the preamble.
4. With regards to claim 2 as well as claims 12, 15, 18 and all their dependents therefrom, the cited claims require a test for satisfaction of at least one criterion; however, it is unclear what the criterion refers to.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2134

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 8, 11, 14, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schutte et al US Patent No 5,463,689 in view of Duncan US Patent No 6,865,660.

6. With regards to claims 1, 11, 14 and 17, Schutte teaches retrieving a first data block from memory (Schutte, column 21 lines 35-40), initially seeding the random number generator using said first data block as a seed (Schutte, column 21 lines 35-40), retrieving a number generated by the random number generator (Schutte, column 21 lines 57-63), retrieving a successive data block from said memory address (Schutte, column 21 lines 20-35), and successively seeding the random number generator with a combination of said seed and said successive data block such that said combination of said seed and said successive data block becomes a resulting seed (Schutte, column 21 lines 56-63). Schutte fails to specifically teach mapping said number to a memory address using a mathematical function. However, Duncan teaches mapping said number to a memory address using a mathematical function (Duncan, column 4 lines 5-23). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Duncan's method of address mapping because it offers the advantage of allowing the simulation of real world situations using randomly generated numbers that can be used to test semiconductor components (Duncan, column 3 lines 4-12, column 1 lines 14-25).

7. With regards to claim 8, Schutte as modified teaches the first data block including previously saved data (Schutte, column 21 lines 35-56).

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 2-7, 9-10, 12-13, 15-16, and 18-19 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and written to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112 presented above.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

9. With regards to claims 2-6, 12-13, 15-16, and 18-19, the cited prior art fails to specifically teach or suggest the testing for satisfaction of at least one criterion and repeating claimed steps c, d, e, and f if the criterion is not met. As a result, the cited prior art fails to anticipate or render obvious the above-cited claims.

10. With regards to claim 7, the cited prior art fails to specifically teach or suggest the first data block including an identifier unique to a specific computer device. As a result, the cited prior art fails to anticipate or render obvious the above-cited claim.

11. With regards to claim 9, the cited prior art fails to specifically teach or suggest the claimed mathematical function for mapping addresses. As a result, the cited prior art fails to anticipate or render obvious the above-cited claim.

Art Unit: 2134

12. With regards to claim 10, the cited prior art fails to specifically teach or suggest the combination of said seed and said successive data block being accomplished by hashing said seed and said successive data block. As a result, the cited prior art fails to anticipate or render obvious the above-cited claim.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew L. Nalven whose telephone number is 571 272 3839. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8-6, Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Zand can be reached on 571 272 3811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2134

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Andrew Nalven



KAMBIZ ZAND
PRIMARY EXAMINER